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Housekeepers' Chat

Monday, March 3, 1930.

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

Subject; "The March Wind Doth Blow -- Dust." From Bureau of Home Economics, U. S. D. A.

Bulletins available: "Housecleaning Made Easier" and "Pork in Preferred Ways."

--ooOoo--

"The March wind doth blow," sang my Next-Door Neighbor. "The March wind doth blow, and we shall have dust, and what will the housekeeper do, poor thing?"

"Not hide in the barn, to keep herself warm," I said. "She will clean house. Isn't it about time we gave some thought to spring housecleaning?"

"High time, for me," said my Neighbor. "Do you remember when housecleaning was a semi-annual event? Like Christmas and the Fourth of July. How I dreaded it! I mean the tedious, back-breaking spring housecleaning, which upset the regular routine, and made everybody uncomfortable while it lasted. A little cleaning now and then is relished by the best of men, but too much of it makes them grouchy. And do they like to hang nice clean curtains for you, and shake rugs, and hang pictures? Do they?"

My Neighbor laughed, a very sarcastic laugh, too. I'm glad there were no husbands around, to hear. Their feelings might have been hurt.

"But why make a six-day event of housecleaning?" I asked. "Why upset the house, from garret to cellar? Frequent cleaning saves time and strength, and is also better for the house, and the people who dwell therein. Heavy cleaning may be done a little at a time, to avoid the hard work and discomforts of the old-time spring and fall housecleaning. Nowadays we emphasize 'preventive' housecleaning -- that is, keeping dirt out of the house. 'Preventive' housecleaning saves a great deal of effort."

"I know," said my Neighbor. "I save myself lots of work by removing dirt regularly from the window sills, porches, steps, and walks. Did you see the screen, covered with cheesecloth, on my storeroom window? Air passes through the screen, but dust and soot do not."

"A good idea," I said. "Cloth screens are particularly useful in pantries and storerooms, and for doors and windows near the ground, against which dirt of all sorts is blown. In some climates cloth screens are used in bedroom windows at night, to keep out dampness as well as dirt."



"Muddy or dusty shoes and clothing are another source of dirt in the house. Much of this dirt can be kept out by getting rid of dirt walks, and bare ground near the house, and by insisting that mats and scrapers be used out of doors, and by providing special places just inside where muddy rubbers and boots and coats may be left and cleaned. An entrance passage or small room answers this purpose. I've tried to teach my family that the kitchen is not the place for storing muddy shoes and cleaning dusty clothing. But see what time it is! Here I stand talking about housecleaning, when I promised Billy I'd make him a Butterscotch Pudding for dinner!"

"Butterscotch Pudding, said my Neighbor, thoughtfully. "My favorite pudding, Aunt Sammy. What else are you having for dinner?"

"Oh, some sausage and fried apples, and mashed potatoes. I'm busy today, and haven't time to cook a big dinner. Why?"

"Just wondering," said my Neighbor. "I'm particularly fond of sausage and fried apples and mashed potatoes. Would you mind --"

"Of course not," I said. "Come on over -- you can help me cook." She came, bringing with her some dandelion greens, which were a pleasing addition to our dinner.

Now I'm going to answer a few housecleaning questions, before I give you the Butterscotch Pudding recipe.

First: "What is the best way to clean upholstered furniture?"

A vacuum cleaner, or a brush, is the most effective tool for cleaning upholstered furniture. A soft brush is best for velvet and velour; a stiffer one for tapestry and other strong, firm materials; and a pointed one for tufted upholstery. If convenient, upholstered furniture should be taken out of doors occasionally, and beaten with a flat carpet beater. It may be cleaned indoors by the following method: Cover the upholstery with a cloth, dipped in water and wrung as dry as possible, then beat with a flat beater. The damp cloth will take up the dust, and prevent its spreading over the room.

Second question: "How should one clean a leather rocking chair?"

Leather furniture coverings last longer and look better if rubbed occasionally with castor oil, or a commercial leather polish, to restore the oil that gradually dries out of the leather. Rub the liquid in well and wipe off any excess; otherwise, this film of oil will darken the leather, and soil whatever touches it.

Third question: "How can I remove paint and varnish which has been spattered on the window pane?"

The first thing I noticed when I stepped
 out of the plane was a sense of relief.
 The air was fresh and the sun was shining.
 I had been flying for hours and I was
 finally home. I looked out the window
 and saw the familiar landscape below.
 The fields were green and the trees were
 tall. I felt like I had reached an old friend.
 I took a deep breath and smiled.

As I walked through the airport, I
 saw many people with luggage. Some
 were looking happy, some were looking
 sad. I felt a little bit of sympathy
 for them. I had been through the same
 process and I knew how it felt.
 I was home and I was safe. I was
 finally where I belonged.

I had been away for so long and I
 was finally back. I was home and I
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Paint or varnish spatters on glass may be dissolved with turpentine or alcohol, or rubbed off with a dull knife.

Next question: "How many times a year does a floor need re-waxing?"

Under moderate use, a floor needs re-waxing two or three times a year. Applying too much wax is a common mistake. The extra wax lies on the surface in a soft coat that collects dust, and is easily marred. To clean a waxed floor, sweep it with a soft brush or a mop entirely free from oil. Oil softens wax, and should never be used on it, in any way. About once a week a waxed floor should be given a more thorough cleaning with a cloth wrung out of warm soapy water, or better still, moistened with turpentine or gasoline. Water dulls and whitens a waxed floor. Turpentine, or gasoline, dissolves the film of dirty wax on the surface and leaves it bright. However, in using these liquids, remember that they are inflammable.

Don't forget about the bulletin, "Housecleaning made Easier," when you plan your spring cleaning.

Now shall I tell you about the dinner? Let's write the menu: Sausage and Fried Pineapple (I decided to have pineapple, instead of apples); Mashed Potatoes; Dandelion Greens; and Butterscotch Pudding.

To prepare the Sausage and Fried Pineapple, mold flat sausage cakes one-half inch thick. Cook the sausage cakes, in a heavy uncovered skillet, until they are brown and crisp on both sides. Remove the cakes, drain them on absorbent paper, and keep them warm in the oven. Drain slices of canned pineapple, and brown them in the sausage fat. Serve the hot sausage cakes on the pineapple, on a hot platter. Link sausage may be cooked and served the same way.

I took this recipe from the new leaflet, "Pork in Preferred Ways." If you are fond of pork, you'll be pleased with this latest collection of pork recipes.

Would you like to have the recipe for Butterscotch Pudding? Seven ingredients, for Butterscotch Pudding. Seven is a lucky number, so you will have no trouble with this pudding. Seven ingredients:

3/4 cup flour	1/2 teaspoon salt
3 cups milk	2 or 3 eggs, and
1-1/2 cups brown sugar	1/2 teaspoon vanilla.
3 tablespoons butter	

Seven ingredients, for Butterscotch Pudding: (Repeat).

Blend the flour, and 1 cup of the cold milk, until smooth. Heat the remaining milk in a double boiler. Pour some of the hot milk into the flour and milk. Return the mixture to the double boiler, stir until thickened, and cook for 15 minutes. Meantime, cook the brown sugar, butter, and salt, for 5 minutes, over direct heat. Stir constantly. Add this, while hot, to the mixture in the double boiler.

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Beat well. Gradually stir this mixture into the beaten eggs, return to the double boiler. cook for a few minutes, remove from the fire, add the vanilla, and chill. Serve with plain or whipped cream.

Once more, the menu: Sausage and Fried Pineapple; Mashed Potatoes; Dandelion Greens; and Butterscotch Pudding.

And what were the two bulletins I mentioned? "Pork in Preferred Ways," and "Housecleaning Made Easier."

Tomorrow: "The Living Room of a Homelike House."

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The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions. It emphasizes that every entry should be supported by a valid receipt or invoice. This ensures transparency and allows for easy verification of the data.

In the second section, the author details the various methods used to collect and analyze the data. This includes both manual and automated techniques. The goal is to ensure that the information gathered is both reliable and comprehensive.

The final part of the document provides a summary of the findings and offers recommendations for future work. It suggests that further research is needed to improve the efficiency of the current processes and to explore new data sources.